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## Hand Mending : Clothing Leaflet 6

Helen Rocke

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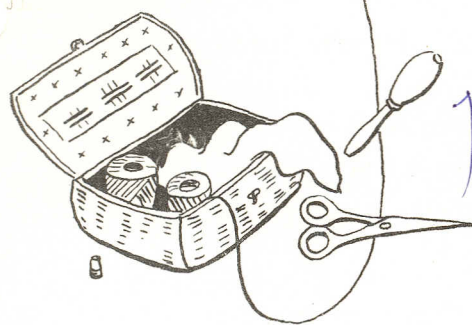
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*Keep plates*

Helen Rocke  
Clothing Specialist

Hand mending takes more time than machine mending but it is often less noticeable, gives a softer finish and at times is more convenient. It is usually desirable to use hand mending on better garments and hosiery.

## Mending Pointers

Plain darns are suitable for mending small holes, snags, and worn places. Except for small holes and worn spots, darns are seldom used on any material except wool, some laces, or heavy fabrics somewhat like wool in texture.

USE THREAD THAT BLENDS with the material. Pull yarns from a scrap of the same cloth if you have any, or ravel them from straight-cut seams or edges where they may be spared. Use lengthwise yarns for darning lengthwise...crosswise yarns for crosswise darning.

If taken from a garment, crosswise yarns may come from the inside of the hem... lengthwise yarns from the seam allowances in the skirt and waist. To get lengthwise yarns for darning a drapery or bedspread, trim off a selvage or rip a side hem, ravel off a few yarns, trim, and refinish the edge. Take the crosswise yarns from one end.

If you can't get self yarn, use dull sewing thread that blends with the material. Thread usually works up lighter than it appears on the spool, so it is better to buy slightly darker thread.

STUDY THE WEAVE of the fabric. Repeat it as closely as you can. Work under a strong light.

USE FINE NEEDLE - SHORT THREAD. Long thread pulled back and forth across a tear or hole tends to pull and stretch a darn out of shape.

WORK FOR FLATNESS. If the yarns are pulled up tight, the finished darn puckers and looks drawn. Too loose stitching, on the other hand, makes the darn look "puffy."

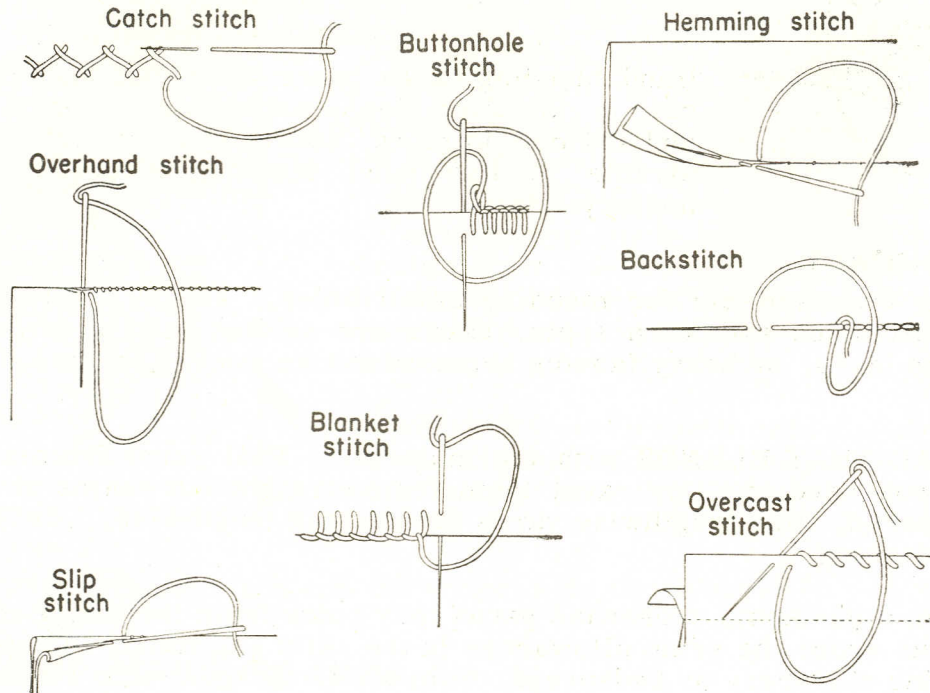
Draw the mending yarn through the yarns in the cloth itself when you can. Take tiny stitches and be especially careful not to pull them too taut when you make a turn. Run the stitches unevenly into the cloth around the edge of the darn...so there is no definite line where the darn starts.

Pull ends of darning yarns to the inside of the garment and cut them off...but not too closely. Be sure that all raw edges of the hole or tear are on the underside of the darn.

Usually it's better to darn on the right side of the material, so you can see how well you are blending the darn into the fabric.

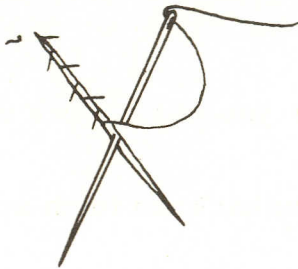
Press the finished darn. Steam-press on the wrong side. Brush darns on wool on the right side to lift the nap.

### BASIC MENDING STITCHES



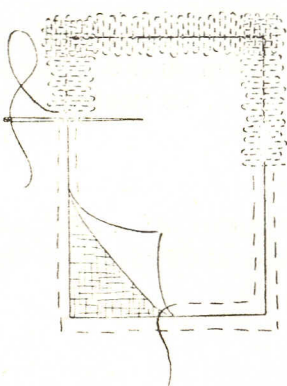
## Mending slashes or long tears

A fishbone stitch is sometimes practical for this purpose. It can be used on firm cotton or wool fabrics without any other stitching if there is no strain on the slash.



If the slash is long or on the bias pin a piece of paper underneath before starting to sew to hold the edges smoothly together. Stitches should be uniform and firm but not tight enough to draw the fabric. If there is strain on the place or it needs further strengthening darn back and forth over the slash either by hand or machine, depending on type of fabric and garment you are mending.

## Darned-in Patch



This patch may be used to mend pile fabrics like corduroys and velveteen or thick and heavy woolens. On pile fabrics work from the wrong side of the material.

For materials that fray or slip when darned baste the patch to a piece of net or thin fabric large enough to extend under edges of hole. Use matching thread to baste the patch and net securely into position.

The darning may be done by machine if there is to be much strain on the cloth.



**Mending Knit Materials** In knit material, snags or breaks stretch to form holes. Mend these while they are still small. Use matching yarn. Ravel out a pocket or some other part of the garment you can do without...or you may be able to buy a matching skein.

To keep a simple break in the knitting from growing, catch the end of each loop with a needle and matching thread. Tie off securely on the wrong side.

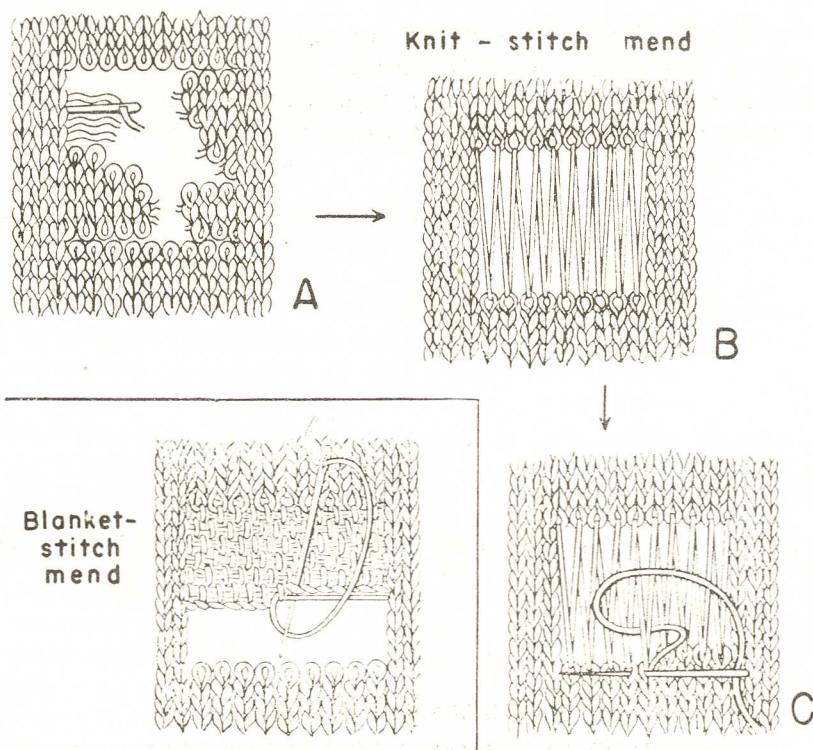
**Knit-stitch Mend** If the knit is plain, copy the stitch with a knit stitch. This mend hardly shows, and it will "give" as much as the rest of the garment.

First make two horizontal cuts - one above the hole, one below it. Ravel the knit to the ends of the cuts. A thread may be run through the loops at the top and bottom of the hole to be sure they won't ravel. Thread each loose end and run it back through the fabric on the underside (A).

Then with matching yarn zigzag across the hole lengthwise (B). Work the knit stitch as shown below (C).

**Blanket-stitch Mend** This is easier to do than the knit stitch, but it shows more and has no "give." Use this stitch only where the garment will not be stretched in use.

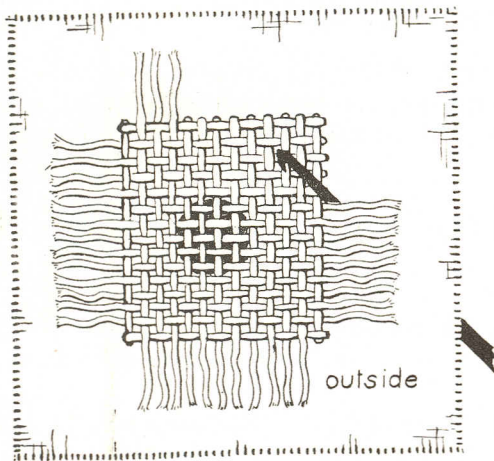
Ravel out a square hole as illustrated for the knit-stitch mend (A). Thread each loose end and run it back through the fabric on the underside. Then pull in a crosswise yarn and work back over it with loose blanket stitches...one for each knitting stitch. Pull another yarn crosswise. Work back over it with blanket stitches and continue until the hole is filled.



## Reweaving or Woven in Patch

This patch put on from the right side is most suitable for coarse and somewhat loosely woven fabric. It is most often used on wool.

On the material to be patched mark with four pins a square or rectangle the size of the patch needed to cover the hole. Then clip and pull out one yarn on each side of the square. Pull one yarn in each direction to make an outline for the patch.



From matching material cut a patch one inch larger on all sides than the outline of the patch. Ravel out yarns from each side of the patch until it is the exact size of the outline.

Lay the matched patch on top of the hole on the right side and pin in place. Use a small crochet hook and working from the wrong side draw the raveled yarns thru the line left by pulling the thread. Work around the entire patch until the patch sets smoothly over the hole or damaged place.

Next use a needle and thread slightly darker in color to make little hemming stitches on the wrong side of the patch along the lines where the yarns were pulled through.

Steam press both the right and the wrong side of the patch.

## Patching With Mending Tape

There are various kinds of adhesive mending tape available at notion counters. These are pressed on with a hot iron. It withstands dry cleaning and careful laundering but works best to reinforce thin places rather than to fill a hole already formed. The directions that come with the package of tape should be read and carefully followed.

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Several Illustrations in this circular were reproduced from "ABC's of Mending," Farmers' Bulletin 1925, U.S.D.A.

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